Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 024234
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 AS-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /027 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:TJCHEAVNER/BTK
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
ARA:TTODMAN
S/S - MR. REDDY
-
----------030140Z 030768 /63
P 030125Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 024234

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JM

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH JAMAICAN AMBASSADOR RATTRAY

1. SUMMARY: IN FEBRUARY 1 MEETING JAMAICAN AMBASSADOR RATTRAY TOLD THE SECRETARY THAT GOJ WISHES TO REOPEN THE CHANNELS OF "NORMAL COMMUNICATION" BETWEEN USG AND GOJ. HE SUGGESTED THAT PRIME MINISTER MANLEY VISIT WASHINGTON TO SEE PRESIDENT CARTER, AND HE ALSO REQUESTED THAT SECRETARY VANCE RECEIVE FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON. THE SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD RAISE WITH THE PRESIDENT THE QUES-TION OF A MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER MANLEY. HE ALSO AGREED TO SEE PATTERSON AND ASSURED RATTRAY THAT WE VERY MUCH WELCOME GOJ DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. RATTRAY DESCRIBED JAMAICAN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, GOJ EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH "SOCIAL JUSTICE" AND DIFFICULTIES GOJ EXPERIENC-
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PAGE 02 STATE 024234

ING WITH IMF. IMPORTANCE OF RESOLVING REVERE QUESTION STRESSED BY AMBASSADOR TODMAN. END SUMMARY.

2. AT REQUEST JAMAICAN EMBASSY, THE SECRETARY RECEIVED JAMAICAN AMBASSADOR RATTRAY FEBRUARY 1. RATTRAY OPENED THE CONVERSATION BY DELIVERING CONGRATULATORY LETTERS TO THE SECRETARY FROM BOTH PRIME MINISTER MANLEY AND FOREIGN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

MINISTER PATTERSON. MANLEY LETTER SUGGESTED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE SECRETARY IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
3. RATTRAY THEN SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS A "VERY POSITIVE DESIRE FOR THE RESTORATION OF AT LEAST NORMAL CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION" WITH THE USG. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT THIS SENTIMENT IS VERY WELCOME AND WE WANT TO SEE IT HAPPEN. RATTRAY THEN SUGGESTED A "VERY LOW KEY", INFORMAL MANLEY VISIT HERE AT AS EARLY A DATE AS POSSIBLE TO SEE THE PRESIDENT. THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT HE WOULD TAKE IT UP WITH THE PRESIDENT AND SEE HOW THIS FITS INTO THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE. RATTRAY ALSO CONVEYED A REQUEST FROM FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON TO MEET WITH SECRETARY VANCE, TO WHICH THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT HE WOULD BE VERY PLEASED TO RECEIVE PATTERSON, AFTER HE RETURNS FROM HIS MIDDLE EAST TRIP.

4. RATTRAY BRIEFED THE SECRETARY ON THE SITUATION IN JAMAICA AND MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. JAMAICAN SOCIALISM IS SIMILAR TO THE SOCIALISM ONE FINDS IN WESTERN EUROPE, AND THE GOJ IS ENGAGED IN A REFORM EFFORT TO BRING SOCIAL JUSTICE TO ITS PEOPLE.

B. SOCIAL JUSTICE IS LONG OVERDUE IN JAMAICA AND REFORM MUST PROCEED AT A FASTER PACE, BUT TO CARRY OUT REFORM REQUIRES A HEALTHY ECONOMY, AND THE ECONOMY NOW IS IN BAD SHAPE.

C. JAMAICA IS IN DIRE NEED OF BOTH FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 024234

DEVELOPMENT FUNDS IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT ITS REFORM PROGRAMS.

D. THE IMF WANTS A MASSIVE DEVALUATION IN JAMAICA, BUT DEVALUATION WILL NOT WORK IN THE JAMAICAN CONTEXT. THE IMF IS NOT GEARED TO ACCEPT A JAMAICAN SOLUTION, WHICH IS WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW IMPLEMENTING. IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF U.S. REPS ON THE FUND COULD SUPPORT THE GOJ IN GETTING IMF TO ACCEPT THE GOJ PROGRAM.

5. AMBASSADOR TODMAN REFERRED TO THE BAUXITE SITUATION. RATTRAY SAID THAT THE BAUXITE LEVY WAS DISCUSSED WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER BEFORE IT WAS IMPLEMENTED. HE ALSO NOTED THAT KAISER W,LL SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GOJ TOMORROW. TODMAN STRESSED THE NEED TO RESOLVE THE REVERE QUESTION, TO WHICH RATTRAY REPLIED "WE ANTICIPATE TROUBLE WITH REVERE". RATTRAY EMPHASIZED THAT REVERE WAS ALWAYS AN UNECONOMIC OPERATION AND "THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT INTERFERED WITH REVERE".

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

6. ASKED ABOUT THE "DESTABILIZATION" CHARGES, RATTRAY
SAID THESE CHARGES WERE NEVER MADE BY THE GOJ. HE SAID

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THAT THE GOJ HAD BEEN AT PAINS TO STRESS THAT THE USG
WAS NOT BEING ACCUSED OF DESTABILIZATION, AND HE NOTED
PARTICULARLY THAT THE DESTABILIZATION CHARGES WERE NEVER
RAISED DURING JAMAICAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN. AS TO THE
AGEE VISIT, RATTRAY STATED THAT THE GOJ COULD NOT PREVENT
IT, SINCE IT WAS SPONSORED BY A PRIVATE GROUP.
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22 May 2009
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